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 ORIGIN ARA-14

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 FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
 TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL RESPONDS TO MCNEIL DEMARCHE  
 ON DISAPPEARANCES OF THE NUNS AND OTHER WOMEN

1. AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCNEIL ON APRIL 19 TO CONVEY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR CASTRO AND MCNEIL'S DEMARCHE ON THE REPORTED DEATHS OF THE NUNS AND MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA. THE AMBASSADOR STATED HIS GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE CHARGES THAT ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THESE DISAPPEARANCES.

2. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED FOR HIM TO MAKE FURTHER COMMENTS, BUT HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO DO SO. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO TALK OF THE COMMENTS HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO MAKE. BASICALLY THESE DEALT WITH A REQUEST FOR THE U.S.G. TO REVEAL

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WHERE IT GOT ITS INFORMATION ON THE DEATHS OF THE NUNS AND THE MOTHERS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THE U.S. SHOULD NOT FEEL COMPELLED TO MEET THIS REQUEST: ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO ASK FOR THE INFORMATION.

3. AJA THEN ASKED ABOUT THE KC 130S AND CHINOOKS

WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED TO PURCHASE. MCNEIL INFORMED HIM THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAD APPROVED THE SALES AND THAT THE CASES WOULD BE FORWARDED TO CONGRESS.

4. DURING THE CONVERSATION AJA ESPIL GAVE SOME INTERESTING GLIMPSES OF THE RIVALRIES AND DISTRUSTS WITHIN THE GOA.

HE QUESTIONED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S REPORTING ON THE PRESIDENT VIDELA-AMBASSADOR CASTRO CONVERSATION AND CAPPED HIS COMMENTS BY NOTING THAT ADMIRAL MASSERA HAD PUBLICLY OPPOSED GENERAL VIDELA AS THE FOURTH MAN. AJA SMILED AND SAID THAT IT WAS NOT EASY TO BE THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON. CHRISTOPHER

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**Document Information**

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